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### Johnson's Appointments

When President Johnson recently filled a number of ambassadorial posts, only one professional politician, former Democratic national chairman Frank E. McKinney, was among the nominees. McKinney was offered a minor post—Jamaica. The president thus continued a practice of choosing career officials for high government office.

Of 50 ambassadorial assignments since Johnson took office, 36 have been career diplomats and 11 such experienced individuals as Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor in South Vietnam and Angier Biddle Duke in Spain. Including five Johnson appointments not yet confirmed, career foreign service officers now head 78 of the 112 embassies and two legations maintained abroad—a ratio of 68% in favor of career personnel. The ratio in recent years had been about 60%.

In filling 226 major and minor federal offices, the president has quite naturally sought individuals who have some philosophical identification with his Great Society. At the same time he has leaned toward the advancement of career personnel and toward middle aged persons with broad experience in specific fields, regardless of political affiliation.

When retired Vice-Admiral William F. Raborn was recently sworn in as director of the central intelligence agency, Johnson noted that his two predecessors, John A. McCone and Allen W. Dulles, were Republicans. The president added: "I have never inquired into the admiral's politics but I do know something of his talents and that is why he was selected for this particular task."

There can be little complaint about such an appointment policy.

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